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LIVESAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE LIVESAYS OF GRAYSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

BY

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THE LIVESAYS OF GRAYSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

When men record the history of a nation they do so over a period of many years and after diligent and careful research. This history is compiled in many volumes, carefully edited, and frequently revised. To adequately record the history of a people men must devote the same painstaking care. History which is accurate and comprehensive is the sum total of the experiences of a nation or a people.

With this in mind, it would be presumptuous for the writer to call the sketch to be given on these pages a history. It may be more accurately called a beginning, a crude foundation upon which others will build in the future. It will relate a few of the facts concerning the activities of a family as it moved from the Eastern Shore on its journey-to-be throughout America.

At this writing, it is believed that the Livesays who settled in Grayson County, Virginia, arrived in America from England around the beginning of the 18th Century and that they lived for a time in the eastern section of the State in and around Prince George, County moving westward to the Bedford, Pittsylvania, Henry, Franklin Counties area by the mid 1700s. From Franklin County, Virginia, George Livesay and his wife, Nancy (Anderson) Livesay, with several small children made the trek to Grayson County about 1790.

Grayson County, Virginia, was formed in 1792 from Wythe County. Wythe was taken from Montgomery County in 1790. The parent county of Montgomery, which was formed in 1776, was Finncastle County. Augusta County was subdivided into Finncastle County (and others) in 1772. Augusta was formed from Orange County in 1738. Spottsylvania County was subdivided in 1734 to form, among others, Orance County. Grayson County is bounded today by Smythe and Wythe Counties on the north, Washington County on the west, Carrol County on the ease, and North Carolina on the south.

The principal body of water of the County is New River, a picturesque stream which makes its way from West Virginia to North Carolina through Grayson's pleasant hills and valleys and towering mountains. The County is known for its vistas of inspiring scenery. Mount Rogers, elevation 5,720 feet, is located in Grayson. It is the highest point in Virginia.

Present-day Grayson County boasts a prosperous Galax as its leading city, with historic Independence as its county seat. Galax, "the only debt-free city in Virginia," is known for its diversified manufacturing, with furniture factories leading the parade of industry. Properous farms grace the county's hills and valleys. Among other things, vegetables, tobacco, and apples grow well in Grayson and cattle are found in increasing numbers. The green of the hills and valleys in spring and the symphony of colors in autumn are unforgettable.

George Livesay was the first of the family to live in Grayson County. He was a Revolutionary War soldier born between 1760 and 1765 in what is believed to have been Bedford County, Virginia. He describes his birthplace as "Fort Bedford, Virginia" in papers on file in his pension record at the National Archives in Washington, D. C. It is believed that he was born while his parents were living in the shelter of one of the early forts built in Colonial days for protection against the Indians. The approximate site of such a fort is marked on the highway from Roanoke to Bedford in Bedford County.

George was one of several children born to Thomas and Margaret () Livesay. We know the names of eight of these children. They were as follows: Thomas, Edmund, John, Alice, George, Peter, Margaret, and Andrew.

Records indicate that Thomas and Margaret Livesay and their family lived in the same general area from at least 1760 through 1806. Descendants live in that section of Virginia today. They are first found in Bedford and Pittsylvania Counties. Then, as new counties were formed, their places of residence was included in the new governmental unit. Henry and Franklin County records reveal their presence. Thomas Livesay was living in Franklin County when he died in 1797.

Along with his father and his brothers, George Livesay is listed in official court records of Bedford, Henry, and Franklin County. In 1778 he enlisted in the Revolutionary Army in Henry County. He was between thirteen and eighteen years of age when he enlisted. In his pension record George describes himself as fighting the British and Tories along the Dan River in North Carolina.

Fothergill lists him as a taxpayer in Henry County between 1782 and 1787. He is named as bringing in "five young wolf heads" in the Court Order Book in Bedford County. With his father and brothers he serves on juries in Franklin County and is a party in litigation in Bedford and Franklin County records.

It appears that the old English custom of the greater part of the inheritance being passed on to the eldest or elder sons may have been followed by Thomas Livesay. Perhaps for this reason and a desire to be independent, George Livesay, a younger son, and his family leave Franklin County by 1789 and journey southwestward to what was then Montgomery or Wythe County, later to become the area comprising Grayson County.

Although some settlement had been made in the area which was later to become Grayson County, it was, for the most part, untamed frontier country when George Livesay and his family came across the mountains and down the valleys to what was to be their home for many years to come. Indian raids were not infrequent and wild animals and severe weather added to the rigors of daily living. Day to day existence required courage and teamwork.

Pioneer Settlers of Grayson County, by Nuckolls, describes the early days in the area as follows:

"The early settlers selected land along New River and its tributary creeks, as they were the most productive and were rich with wild pea-vine and other vegetation for the stock.

"History proves to us beyond a doubt that our ancestors, by strenuous labors and perseverance, changed the face of this country which they found wild and uncultivated, and that we now enjoy the fruits of their labor.

"They felled the forests and drove the wolves and bears from their lurking dens and built their log cabins in the spring.

"Their sheep, cattle, and hogs lived on the range but had to be brought in at night near the cabin to protect them from ravenous wolves and other wild animals, which were plentiful then.

"Bells were put on the cattle and sheep so that they could be found when they strayed away. The rich weeds and pea-vines and other vegetable growth afforded feed for the stock, and hogs fed on the mast and foraged in the woodlands. Pens were made and the stock were driven in them at night, and often large log fires had to be built to keep the wolves away.

"The springs of laughing water are still there, but the log cabins of the pioneers are gone--and beautiful homesteads, waving harvests, and lowing herds tell of the comfort and good cheer of the country.

"The ramshackle school house, in which children learned their a b c's in the years gone are replaced with academies and high schools of architectural taste and adapted to educational purposes. Instead of log cabins and humble private homes where divine services were conducted, now the "church-going bell" calls the people to worship in elegant houses of worship."

A study of deeds in the Court House in Independence, Virginia, reveals that George Livesay and his family owned land near New River on Big Fox Creek, an area west of Independence. Later deeds indicate that he bought and sold land which bordered on New River's west bank. The family probably first settled near the river and later moved to the higher elevations northward.

As early as January 10, 1794, George Livesay is listed as a property owner in Grayson County. In the Personal Property List of "taxable property within the district of Joshua Hails, Commissioner," George owns two horses for tax purposes and there is "one white male above 16 at home". James, the eldest son who was born in 1782, was only 12 at the time.

George Livesay is listed in this district as a property owner each year through 1804.

In 1797 he is listed in Grayson County Land Bood Number 1814 as having 250 acres of land within the district of Joseph Elliott, Commissioner of Revenue. A tax bill of 11½ had been levied on the land. He is listed in the Land Book as owning property through 1813 in this district. In 1815 his land totaling 450 acres is surveyed at his request. Throughout his stay in Grayson County it is apparent that he owned land in several different locations.

George Livesay was an independent man and one possessed with the spirit of the pioneer. Born in a frontier fort in a time in the nation's history when day to day living required courage and resourcefulness, he grew up on the fointier and never knew the life of the population centers. Reading between the lines in personal and court records it appears that he had a spirit of adventure and reckless daring. When he was still a young man he took with him his young family and, with other families (among them the Andersons), he headed for a new area and new opportunity. He left behind him his parents and several brothers and sisters.

His stay in Grayson County lasted approximately 25 years. In 1816 Grayson County records show George and Nancy, his wife, selling land to John Hash on the west side of New River. This is the last official record we have of him in Grayson County.

George and Nancy (Anderson) Livesay, in search of new land and new opportunity, moved on with most of their family of eleven children. Current research locates George Livesay next in Hawkins County, Tennessee, about 1819. One of his sons, Peter Livesay, shows up one year earlier in Hawkins County. In 1818 he secures land on the north side of Clinch River on Blackwater Creek. He describes himself as Peter Livesay, of Lee County, Virginia. We assume that this means that for approximately three years the southwestward moving Livesays reside on the Lee County, Virginia, side of the Clinch River.

On June 19, 1819, George Livesay acquired 100 acres of land grant territory on Blackwater Creek, a tributary of Clinch River. This is in the Kyles Ford, Tennessee, area.

George Livesay and his wife, Nancy (Anderson) Livesay, had a large family. Children born to the couple were James, born 1782; Elizabeth, born 1784; Peter, born 1786; Rachel, born 1789; Margaret, born 1791; Thomas, born 1793; George, born 1794; Mary, born 1796; Edmund, born 1799; Joseph, born 1802; and Enoch, born 1804. All of these children except the eldest, James, went with their parents to Lee County, Virginia and then to Tennessee. It is from this James Livesay that all Grayson County Livesays come.

Although James later joined his parents and brothers and sisters in Tennessee some time between 1830 and 1840, he raised a family in Grayson County, Virginia, and took an active part in its affairs for more than 20 years.

According to Calvin Livesay's account, (he is the writer's great grandfather) James Livesay was a gunsmith. Official records show he was a man who was called upon to furnish leadership. In 1820 he was appointed Constable for the "Upper District" of Grayson County. Again in 1825 he was appointed Constable for the "20th Battalion."

James Livesay married Ellender Caldwell about 1801. Calvin Livesay's account of the family describes James Livesay's wife as "a Caldwell" of English decent. Deeds recorded in the Court House in Independence, Virginia, name James' wife as "Ellender" but do not list her surname.

James is missing from George Livesay's household in the Personal Property list in 1801 and shows up in the same district with "one horse and one white male above 16." He appears in the same district until 1804 when he apparently moved to another location in the county. He is mentioned in the Grayson County Court Order Book in litigation with one George Harper in May, 1825. Thomas Anderson joined James Livesay in this suit. Livesay and Anderson won the decision.

On October 12, 1821, James and his wife, Ellender, are listed in the Grayson County Deed Book as selling land on the east side of Middle Fox Creek to Jesse Anderson.

A tintype of James and Ellender in the possession of Mrs. Gilbert S. Wright (Daisie Shootman) of Del Mar, California, supports statements of records which describe earlier Livesays as large in stature. The tintype was made when James Livesay had reached an advanced age but he appears tall and large in frame.

James and Ellender (Caldwell) Livesay left Grayson County some time between 1830 and 1840. They show up in the 1840 census of Hancock County. More research in Grayson and Hancock is needed here to determine when they left Grayson County. The 1840 census shows one male between 15 and 20 (their son, Joseph, two females, and one male between 50 and 60 James). The two females are Ellender (between 50 and 60) and Nancy (Anderson) Livesay, listed as between 70 and 80.

Children of James and Ellender Livesay were listed by Calvin Livesay, his grandson, when he (Calvin) was quite elderly. Judging from the size of the families in the 1800s, it appears that he omitted several or a number died before reaching adulthood. Court records and personal family data indicate the following: Andrew, born 1802; Nance, born circa 1804; George, born circa 1807; Fieldon, born 1809; James, born 1811; and Joseph, born 1822. All except Nancy were listed in Calvin

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Livesay's record. She is found in Marriage Records of Grayson County, Virginia where her marriage to Smith Martin is recorded on December 12, 1824. No further data concerning Nancy Livesay is available to the writer at this time.

It is felt that confusion will be avoided at this point in the sketch if it is subdivided and the children of James and Ellender (Caldwell) Livesay are treated as "chapters." Consequently, the next few pages will concern Andrew, George, Fieldon, James and Joseph Livesay's sketch is completed a few concluding thoughts will be given.

ANDREW LIVESAY (1802-)

Andrew, the eldest child listed, married Nancy Anderson in Grayson County, Virginia on February 8, 1822. Calvin Livesay's account of the family states that "Andrew settled in Lee County, Virginia." Court records corroborate this statement. Andrew and Nancy, his wife, are listed in the 1850 census as living in Lee County. The enumerator, one Stephen A. Crockett, listed eight children at home at the time of the census. He describes Andrew as a farmer.

At this writing we do not know when Andrew and Nancy left Grayson County. Subsequent research in Lee County and Grayson County will more than likely fill in this gap. We do know that many of the Lee County Livesays are descendants of these two former Grayson County Residents.

Stephon Crockett, the census taker, lists the following children of Andrew and Nancy in 1850: Rachel, 27; Sanders, 23; Willis, 21; Robert H., 20; Susannah, 16; Patrick, 12; Emily, 10; and Anderson, 7. Andrew Livesay's wife, Nancy, is listed as 48 in 1850.

The 1870 census of Lee County names the following grandchildren of Andrew and Nancy: (children of William Willis Livesay and Jane, his wife) - Hiram, 15; Mary, 11; Thomas, 8; Anderson, 4; another male, 3; (children of Patrick H. Livesay and Elizabeth, his wife) - Hiram, 11; Jackson, 8; James, 5; and Andrew, 2; and Randall Ulysses ____.

Apparently the other sons of Andrew and Nancy had left the county by 1870.

GEORGE LIVESAY (1807-)

George Livesay, the second son named of James and Ellender (Caldwell) Livesay married Margaret Hackler in Grayson County on August 8, 1826. Shortly after their marriage the young couple buy land on Clem's Branch in Grayson County from Jacob Anderson and Lydia, his wife. The purchase is recorded in Deed Book Number 6, page 73, in the Court House in Independence, Virginia.

On August 4, 1823, George and Margaret (Hackler) Livesay sell the same land on Clem's Branch (60 acres), where they have lived since shortly after their marriage, to a James Nelson. Official records in Grayson County do not mention the couple again. Calvin Livesay's record describes them as moving to Lee County, Virginia, staying there a while, and then moving to Lawrence County, Missouri. Very little study of the records of the later county has been made by the writer. A book entitled The History of Lawrence County, Missouri lists the following: Marriage Records, Polly Livesey (sis) married Squire S. Caloway on November 4, 1852, P. M. Swatzell, M. G., Confederate Soldiers, 1861-65, Martin Livesey, Minatree Livesey, and Elon Livesey. More research is needed on George Livesay--Margaret Livesay line.

FIELDON LIVESAY (1809-)

The two sons of James and Ellender (Caldwell) Livesay who stayed in Grayson County and from whom Livesays of recent years residing in the area are descended are Fieldon and James. Those who bear the surname Livesay in Grayson County today are all descendants of Fieldon Livesay and Eva (Haga) Livesay.

The two brothers, Fieldon and James, enjoyed a close relationship and their families benefitted from the warm bonds of kinship which drew them together. The Platt Book in the Court House in Grayson County records a survey of land owned by the two brothers "on the waters of Little Fox Creek." Cleveland Livesay, grandson of Fieldon, tells of frequent visits to his father's home by James and his family.

Cleveland Livesay, who lives at Fox, Virginia, in the general area where earlier Livesays resided, would be best qualified to write of his grandfather and grandmother and their descendants. It is hoped that he will add information which the writer has omitted.

Fieldon and his wife, Eva, were both born in 1809. They were married in 1828 or 1829 and lived all of their lives in Grayson County. They raised a family of eight children, who, with few exceptions, chose to remain in Grayson County. The children of Fieldon and Eva (Haga) Livesay were Enoch, born 1830; Elizabeth (Betty), born 1835; Cecelia, born 1838; James, born 1840; Bryam, born 1843; Wylie, born 1845; Sarah J., born 1849; and Cindy, no birthdate available.

An apology is in order here for the failure of the writer to extend the lines of the Livesay female children throughout this sketch. This work must be done and the help of the reader is sincerely solicited in furnishing this information.

Only the descendants of the sons of Fieldon are available. The information that follows was obtained through the assistance of Cleveland Livesay, Fox, Virginia.

Enoch Livesay married Betty Rowse. Their children were as follows: Bayse Livesay, who married Amelia Cornett; Gus Livesay, who married Dollie Burnardner; Sarah Ann, who married John Cornett; Victoria, who married Fletcher Poole; and Ameda, who married Johnson Carrico.

Of Enoch Livesay's grandchildren only the children of Bayse and Amelia (Cornett) Livesay are available at this writing. They are Walter Livesay, who married Sibbie Cornett; Reid Livesay, who married Madeline Murphy; Taft Livesay, who married a Kyle; Ted Livesay, who married Mae Kinser; Hettie Livesay, who married George Williamson; Mable Livesay, who married _____ Fontaine; Clyde Livesay, who married Claud Coltram; Eva Livesay, who married _____ Southland; and Geraldine Livesay, who married Wesley Manuel.

James Livesay, born November 20, 1840, married Lindy Pugh in Grayson County, Virginia. He was a Confederate veteran and he is buried with his wife in the cemetery at New Hope Methodist Church near Barton Cross Roads in Grayson County. He died on June 6, 1908.

The children of James Livesay and Lindy (Pugh) Livesay, as given to the writer, were John Livesay, who married Lura Hash, and Robert Livesay, who married Myrtle Osborne.

Grandchildren of James and Lindy (Pugh) Livesay are as follows: Children of John and Lura (Hash) Livesay--Geneva, Clara, and Georgie; children of Robert and Myrtle (Osborne) Livesay--Jessie (girl), Hazel, Loraine, Gladys, and Ray. The names of the wives or husbands of these Livesays are not available at this time.

Byram Livesay, a Confederate veteran, was born May 19, 1843 in Grayson County, Virginia, and died there on February 28, 1926. He married Phoebe Hash in his native county and she lived to a very ripe old age. Her death occurred early in 1954. Their children were as follows: Lura, who married Robert Halsey; Cleveland, whose first wife was Belle Hash and who married Sena _____, later in life; Fieldon, who died in young manhood; Myrtle, no information available; Ella, who never married; Mary, who married Alec Hall; and Joe Stuart, who married Jessie McPheron.

The Byram Livesays are buried in the cemetery at New Hope Methodist Church. The inscription of his tombstone is one which caused the reader to pause and think. It reads:

Behold ye strangers, as you pass by;
As ye are now so once was I;
As I am now so ye shall be;
Prepare for death and follow me.

The names of the grandchildren of Byram and Phoebe (Hash) Livesay available to the writer at this time are as follows:

children of Cleveland and Belle (Hash) Livesay--Straley, who married and lives in Marion, Virginia; and Bryan, who is married and lives in Independence, in Grayson County; children of Joe Stuart and Jessie (McPherson) Livesay-- Joe Stuart, Jr., who is married and lives in Ashville, North Carolina; and Robert, who is married to the former Sara Oswald and lives in Jacksonville, Florida.

Wylie Livesay is the last of the children of Fieldon and Eva (Haga) Livesay whose descendants are available to the writer. He married Evaline Cornett in Grayson County. Their children were Rose, who married John Wylie Cornett; and Ellis, who married a Vaught.

Grandchildren of Wylie and Evaline (Cornett) Livesay whose names are available are as follows: children of the Ellis Livesays--Madge and Zollie.

JAMES LIVESAY (1811-1900)

Because I am a direct descendant of James Livesay I am able to give more complete information on this branch of the family. Like his older brother Fieldon, James remained in Grayson County all of his life. His father and mother, James and Ellender (Caldwell) Livesay left Grayson County for Lee County and then East Tennessee when James was in his twenties and already established in Grayson with a wife and young family. Like Fieldon, his "roots were down." He probably only vaguely remembered his grandfather and grandmother, George and Nancy Livesay. They left the County on the southwestward trek for Tennessee when he was only five. With travel so difficult and roads as poor as they were in those days he and Fieldon probably never saw their grandparents again. It is not known if they saw their parents after they moved from Grayson County.

James Livesay married Matilda Bird in 1833. He was a surveyor and a Justice of the Peace and is described as being tall and "straight as an arrow." The census enumerator in 1850 visited the homes of James and Fieldon Livesay and listed them as next door neighbors. Deed records in the Grayson County Court House show that they owned land on the waters of Little Fox Creek.

James and Matilda (Bird) Livesay are buried in a family cemetery on Buck Mountain in Grayson County. The graveyard contains Livesay, Cornett, Testerman, Haga, and Ross graves. Matilda Livesay preceded her husband in death by four years. She was born in 1815 and died in 1886. James died in 1900 at the age of 89.

Children of James and Matilda (Bird) Livesay were as follows: Calvin, born 1834; Fieldon, born 1836; Sallie, born 1838; Granville, born 1840; Julia, born 1842; Thursa Jane, born 1845; Eveline, born 1847; Ludena Caroline, born 1849; Elizabeth Jane, born after 1849; and Mary A. Emeline (Emma), born after 1849.

Again the reader's assistance is requested to fill in the gaps in the data available on the descendants of the Livesay women. No information is available on the children of the above named daughters.

According to the writer's information, all of the daughters of James and Matilda (Bird) Livesay remained in Graystone County except Ludena Livesay. Marriages among the daughters were as follows: Sallie married J. F. Roberts; Thursa Jane married Jesse Testerman; Eveline married D. J. Cornett; Julia married three times, the first time to Noah Haga, the second to an Anderson, and the third time to a Ross; Ludena married Fieldon Haga. Elizabeth Jane was the first wife of J. N. Ross. After her death he married Emma.

Because of the availability of information the next few paragraphs will be devoted to the three sons of James and Matilda (Bird) Livesay, Clavin, Fieldon, and Granville, and their Descendants.

Calvin Livesay (1834-1919)

Of the three sons of James and Matilda Livesay, only Calvin remained in Grayson County. He lived in the area of his birth until he reached an advanced age and then went to Versailles, Missouri, to be with his two sons. He died at the home of his younger son in 1919 and is buried with his wife in that city.

Born in 1834, he was a veteran of the Civil War, serving from 1862 through 1865 in Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina. He served in Confederate Armies under the command of Johnston, Hood, Stephen D. Lee, and others. Byram Livesay, his first cousin, enlisted with him.

In 1857 he married Hester Ann Perkins of Grayson County and there were two children born of this union. The eldest, James Ambrose Livesay, was born in 1859. Robert Marshall Livesay, the younger son, was born in 1863.

Calvin was a farmer and a Justice of the Peace. The first clear statement of political preference among the writer's branch of the family is found in Calvin Livesay's brief history of the Livesays. He states that he is a Democrat. Calvin and Hester Ann (Perkins) Livesay were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and there is evidence that the Livesays in this branch and in others were very early Methodists in this country.

His description of his experiences in the Confederate army are most interesting and well written. They give some insight into the conditions and attitudes of officers and enlisted men which are not found in history books.

Calvin Linsay owned land in several places in Grayson County. According to the writer's father, one picturesque location was on "Razor Mountain." Other farm land was owned

near Fox and Grant, Virginia.

Neither of Calvin Livesay's children remained in Grayson County, Virginia. The eldest, James A. Livesay, spent a good portion of his life in the County, however. As a teacher, principal, and superintendant of schools, he served the people of Southwest Virginia. Much of his life as an educator was spent in Grayson County, Virginia. He served at Oak Hill Academy, Bridle Creek, Spring Valley, and Galax. To this day there are those in the County who remember "Professor" Livesay. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Glasgow Normal College in Glasgow, Kentucky, and did additional work in the graduate field at Lebanon National Normal in Ohio and at the University of Virginia.

James A. Livesay married Mary Jane Carson, a native of Grayson County, in 1884. To this marriage six children were born. They were Eugene Reginald, 1887, who married Miriam Brown; Arch D., 1890, who married Madeline Williams; Mary Helen (Mayme), 1894, who married Burns Estes; Lyle, 1897, who married Rae Christian; Hester, 1899; and Ruth, 1905. Hester and Ruth died in childhood. Most of these children were born in Grayson County.

Grandchildren of James A. and Mary Jane (Carson) Livesay were as follows: children of Eugene and Mariam (Brown) Livesay--Nina Carson and James J.; children of Arch D. and Madeline (Williams) Livesay--Carol; children of Burns and Mayme (Livesay) Estes--Miriam and Thomas Burns, Jr.; children of Lyle and Rae (Christian) Livesay--Helen Jean.

Calvin and Hester Ann (Perkins) Livesay's younger son, Robert M., was an attorney and a senator in the Missouri Legislature. He left Grayson County as a young man and returned only on visits. He lived in Wise County for a time and moved with his family to Versailles, Missouri, where he spent most of his life.

Robert M. Livesay married Belle Lester in Missouri and to this union four children were born. The eldest, Virginia, married Ed Cox and they have one son, Edson. They live in Ballinger, Texas. Minor C. Livesay is married and lives in Kansas. The Minor Livesays have one daughter. James M. Livesay married Vivian Hunter and lives in Kirkwood, Missouri. Two children, Marsha Jean and James M., Jr., were born of this union. Robert Livesay died in 1937.

The professions of education and law have been the most frequent choice of the members of the Calvin Livesay branch of the Grayson County line of Livesays.

Fieldon Livesay (1836-)

The second oldest son of James and Matilda (Bird) Livesay was Fieldon Livesay, who was born in 1836. Family records in

the possession of the writer describe Fieldon as moving to Tennessee, probably as a very young man. Robert James Livesay, grandson of Fieldon, writes that he (Fieldon) moved to Morristown, Tennessee from Grayson County, Virginia. He married Julia Welch.

At this writing the name of only one child of Fieldon and Julia (Welch) Livesay is available. Again our source is Robert James Livesay. He says that his father, James Robert Livesay, was the son of Fieldon and Julia.

This branch of the family was representatives in East Tennessee today but many of the group have left the region.

Children of James Robert Livesay and his wife (name not available) are as follows: Mayme, Ida, who married a Morrell; Julia, who married a McCarter; Ernes, William J., Charles H., Harry W., and Robert James, who married Birdie _____.

Several members of this branch of the family line in and around Knoxville.

Granville Livesay (1840-)

The youngest son of James and Matilda (Bird) Livesay, Granville, went to East Tennessee, as did his brother, Fieldon. It is not known if they left Grayson County at the same time. They lived, for a time, in the same section of the state. Fieldon's home in Morristown was in Hamblen County, two counties distant from Sullivan County where Granville lived.

Granville married Nancy Testerman who was described as a native of Hancock County, Tennessee. They lived in Blountville, Tennessee. In 1889, at the age of 59, Granvill Livesay moved with his wife and some of his children to Rockford, Washington. He and his wife died in the state of Washington.

Children of Granville and Nanch (Testerman) Livesay were Eva, Julia, Jack, Arthur, Mollie, who married J. E. York; Cora, who married a Meek; and James A., who married Leona E. Wilson. According to information in the possession of Mrs. George W. Dorr, of Kensington, Maryland, none of the sons accompanied Granville and Nancy to the state of Washington. Arthur and Jack died in young manhood. Descendants of Cora Meek and Mollie York now live in the Pacific Northwest.

Very little is known of the children and grandchildren of the daughters of Granville and Nancy. Information is available However, on the descendants of James A. and Leona (Wilson) Livesay

James A. Livesay grew up in Blountville, Tennessee, where he met his future wife, Leona E. Wilson. Two years before his parents and sisters moved to Washington (state) he came to Gate City, Virginia, where he established himself as a jeweler and the owner of a hardware business. He was highly successful in

his chosen fields. After moving to Gate City he married Miss Wilson. He moved with his family to Washington, C. C., in 1902 where he continued his career as a jeweler.

Children of James A. and Leona (Wilson) Livesay were Henry Clinton, who died in childhood; Emma Kate, who died of burns at an early age; James A., of Washington D. C., who married Annie Fenton; Fannie Ellen, of Washington, D. C., who married George W. Dorr; Charles of Los Angeles, California, who married Germaine Dublin; and Joseph Clifton, who died in childhood.

Grandchildren of James A. and Leona (Wilson) Livesay are as follows: (children of James A. and Annie (Fenton) Livesay) James A; Anna Lee, who married E. E. Schwarck; Patricia Ruth, who married J. B. McMann; and Joyce, who married W. Barr; (children of George W. and Fannie (Livesay) Dorr) Frances Louise, who married Campbell T. Smith; George W., Charles Raymond, Jean Patrica, Emma Louise, and Ellen Jatherine.

JOSEPH LIVESAY (1822-)

The youngest child of James and Ellender (Caldwell) Livesay was Joseph Livesay, who was born in Grayson County, Virginia, in 1822. When James and Ellender left Grayson County they took with them the younger children. Although personal family records and study of official records have not revealed any children between James, born 1811, and Joseph, born 1822, this writer believes that there was other children. In any event, the 1840 census of Hancock County, Tennessee, shows James and Ellender Livesay and one son between the ages of 15 and 20. This would match Joseph's age in 1840--16. Mrs. Gilbert Wright, of Del Mar, California, a great grand daughter of Joseph, has records that state that Joseph came to East Tennessee with his parents from Grayson County, Virginia, when he was a boy. James and Ellender and their children (at least one boy) moved to Tennessee between 1830 and 1840.

When the 1850 census of Hancock County was taken Joseph is not listed. Mrs. Wright's records state that he lived in Tennessee until he was of age and then came to Warren County, Missouri. (Calvin Livesay's account states that he "went to California in 1849 and stayed there two years, then returned to Moberly, Missouri, and raised a family there.)

Joseph Livesay married Sarah A. Yeater of Warren County, Missouri, in 1845. He and his wife lived near Warrentown for a number of years and in Moberly the remainder of their lives. He was a veteran of the Civil War. His sympathy in the struggle is not told, although his funeral service was conducted by the minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Moberly, indicating the possibility of Confederate ties. He and his wife were apparently Methodists. A picture of Joseph Livesay in Mrs. Wright's possession shows that he was tall, erect, and rather handsome and that his wife was equally attractive.

Children of Joseph and Sarah (Yeater) Livesay were, Ellen Frances, born in 1844 in Warren County, Missouri; James McDowell, born in 1847 in Warren County, Missouri; John Henry, born in 1851; and Missouri Ann (Sue), born in 1855.

Ellen Frances Livesay married Winfield Scott Jones. They lived in Wright City and Moberly, Missouri, and Lockport, Illinois. Their children were as follows: Ina Gertrude, who married Thomas N. Sootman; Daisie Pearl, who died at the age of 4; and Comer Earl, who died when he was 10.

Grandchildren of Winfield Scott and Ellen Frances (Livesay) Jones (and children of Ina Gertrude (Jones) and Thomas N. Shootman) were Daisie Pearl, born in 1893 in Higbee, Missouri; Mable Frances, born in 1896 in Hannibal, Missouri; Sue Ellen, born in Moberly, Missouri, in 1903; and Ina Gretrude, born in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1906.

Daisie Pearl Shootman married Raymond E. Ford and the couple lived in and around San Francisco. Some years after his death she married Gilbert S. Wright. They lived in Del Mar, California.

Mable Frances Sootman married Leo Duncan, Thomas Winfield Shootman married Madeline Kellner; Sue Ella Shootman married Leslie Christiansen, and Ina Gertrude Shootman married first a Mingo and then Charles Lowery.

The second child of Joseph and Sarah (Yeater) Livesay was James McDowell Livesay, who was born in 1847 in Warren County, Missouri. He was a veteran of the Civil War, enlisting in the Union Army at a very early age. He attained the rank of Captain before his discharge. Following the war he received a law degree from Warrenton Academy in Warrenton, Missouri, near his parents' home.

In 1876 James McDowell Livesay moved to Colorado where he engaged in the practice of law. He enjoyed a brilliant career as a prosecuting attorney, served in the legislature, and was elected district attorney for the state's First Judicial District. During his career he prosecuted some of Colorado's most notorious criminals. His obituary notice states that he helped frame many of Colorado's laws.

In 1882 he married Mattie Snyder of Central City, Colorado. One son, Dowell, a prominent Denver journalist, was born to this marriage. After his first wife's death he married Edna Lake. To this union one son, James Clarendon, now of Englewood, Colorado, was born.

Missouri Ann (Sue) Livesay and John Henry Livesay, the younger children of Joseph and Sarah (Yeater) Livesay, had no children, according to Mrs. Wright's account. Sue married Frank Tuttle and the couple lived in Moberly, Missouri, most of their lives. John Henry, a conductor on the MK & T Railroad, married Melissa Robertson. They were residents of Moberly, Missouri.

With omissions frequent and information fragmentary, the foregoing is a start on the history of the Livesays who first came to Grayson County around 1790 -- and of the movements westward and southwestward of their descendants.

Cleveland Livesay, of Fox, Virginia, and his son, Bryan, in Independence, are two who make their homes in Grayson. Straley Livesay, also a son of Cleveland, lives just north of the County in Marion, Virginia. A few others, all descendants of Fieldon Livesay (son of James and Ellender), are Grayson residents. The home of Cleveland and his wife, Sena, is located near the early areas of settlement by the pioneer Livesays. He and his wife are gracious and cordial and Cleveland, the elder member of the family, is slender and erect, reminding the writer of the description of some Livesays of earlier days.

At the foot of Buck Mountain, not far from Cleveland Livesay's home in Grayson, is the location of Livesay's Hall. Only stones and the outline of a foundation remains of what was once a Masonic Meeting Hall and a Methodist Church. It was here that Livesays and other families came to worship in the nineteenth century and to take part in the meetings and mysteries of Masonry. The church is said to have been built mainly by Livesays who lived on the mountain. James and Fieldon, the brothers, and perhaps others of the family, had a part in its construction.

A deed in the Court House at Independence, Virginia, dated September 15, 1894, conveys "the Masonic Hall property known as Livesay's Hall in the County of Grayson" to the Elk Creek Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Trustees of the Masonic Hall property are headed by the name E. H. Livesay, probably Enoch Livesay, son of Fieldon and Betty (Rowse) Livesay. Others named are Stephen Cornett, George F. Parks, Rush Shuler, R. H. Hash, S. C. Hackler, A. M. Spell, W. J. Cornett, and Curtus Parks. The property is described as lying on the waters of Little Fox Creek.

For one hundred and seventy years Livesays have been a part of the life of Grayson County, Virginia. Approximately 300 direct descendants look to James and Ellender (Caldwell) Livesay, as their mutual ancestors. Today members of this family are found across the nation and in some foreign countries.

Law, education, politics, engineering, business, and farming are careers most frequently chosen by Grayson County Livesays. Southwest Virginia and the nation have benefited from the Leadership and hard work the family has given to these and other areas of endeavor.

In their journey from the Bedford, Pittsylvania, Henry, Franklin area to Grayson County and thence southwestward this branch of the Livesay family found companionship and, not infrequently, life partners in the following families: Anderson, Cornett, Testerman, Hackler, Haga, Hash, Ross, and others.

These names can be found in census records, court order books, marriage records, personal family notes, wills, and deeds closely called allied with the name Livesay. Peter Anderson is quoted in George Livesay's Revolutionary War Pension papers as saying he lived near George in Franklin County. In Grayson County's Platt Book (A), George's property is described as joining lines with Peter Anderson's property. When Peter Anderson made the above statement he lived near George and Nancy (Anderson) Livesay.

In conclusion, may I say that it is hoped that the reader will consider it an obligation to supplement the material given in this sketch and to call errors to the attention of the officers of the Family Association. Any question which arise should be directed to Ralph Mason, Historian, Livesay Family Association, 3905 Ridgcroft Road, Baltimore 6, Maryland, or to James J. Livesay, 113 Maple Ridge Drive, Jackson 4, Mississippi.

It is understood that others will compile a historical sketch of the Livesay Family during its sojourn in the Bedford-Pittsylvania-Henry-Franklin County area and will follow it to Maury County, Tennessee, and Washington County, Illinois. The Livesay in Hancock and Hawkins County, Tennessee are to be sketched as is that branch of the family that resided in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. Later we will receive a sketch of the Prince George County group. Eventually all these sketches will be combined with appropriate introductory and supplementary data to form a history of the Livesay Family in the United States.

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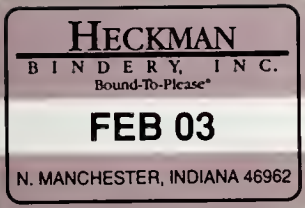
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